Amendments to the Specification

Replace paragraph [0007] with the following:

Several problems have made the use of ex situ writers commercially unfeasible. For example, it is not feasible to unload their servowriter heads onto a textured landing zone after servowriting. ~~Applicant has limited knowledge of an ex situ multi-disc STW with an unload ramp structure that can be positioned near the outer diameter of a stack of horizontal discs. This STW, developed by Phase Metries of Fremont, California, uses a sliding plate to position the ramp structure and a rotary actuator simultaneously. Unfortunately, the exact composition and operation of this ramp structure might not be public and is not known to Applicant. From extensive experience in this field, however, Applicant does know that positioning a ramp structure affixed to a massive plate that also supports a rotary actuator for accessing a disc stack is unduly expensive and/or imprecise.~~

Replace paragraph [0034] with the following:

Advantageously, the vertical orientation of the sliding assembly **602** prevents the force of gravity from pulling the heads **804** downward. This is important both during the loading and unloading of the heads **804** onto the discs **110** as well as during the servo writing process itself. For instance, while the support element **310** acts to separate the heads **804** prior to the loading process, it is noted that the support element **310** typically contacts the flexures **826** rather than the fragile heads **804** located at a distal end of the flexures **826**. Thus, with horizontally-oriented STWs, the force of gravity may tend to pull the heads **804** downward below the level of the individual support element arm or tine, thereby creating a danger of inadvertent contact between the hanging head **804** and the disc **110** prior to the disengagement of the support element **310** from the flexures **826**. This danger is avoided in the current invention since the force of gravity does not tend to pull the heads **804** in the direction of the discs. Additionally, during the servo writing process utilizing the present invention, the force of gravity does not tend to pull the heads **804** either toward or away from their respective disc surfaces as in the prior art. That is, in a horizontally-oriented STW, half of the heads are typically positioned adjacent a top surface of a disc, while the other half of the heads are positioned adjacent a bottom surface of a disc. For those heads positioned above their respective discs, the force of gravity on the flexure **826** and the head **804** ~~is support elementined~~ acts in conjunction

with the preload force generated by the flexure **826,** while for those heads positioned below their respective discs the force of gravity acts against the preload force. This dichotomy can create fluctuations in the preload force for the different heads within the STW which ultimately leads to discrepancies in the "fly height" of the head over the disc surface. While the preload force provided by the flexure is typically much greater than the weight of the flexure and head ~~support elementined~~ combined, even minor discrepancies in the fly height of the head during the servo writing process can lead to errors in the servo pattern.

Replace paragraph [0036] with the following:

A perspective view of the sliding assembly **602** in relation to the STW of **Fig. 6** is shown in **Fig. 7**. The sliding assembly **602** includes ~~an~~ a sliding block **762** housing a rotational air bearing and a translational air bearing (not labeled), an actuator **320** that includes an E-block, several actuator arms **240** carrying recording heads **140** thereon, a DC torque, brushless motor **768** or like motor for actuating the rotational air bearing **152,** a sliding mechanism **754** for translational movement of the sliding block **762,** and a laser transducer assembly for coordinating the motor's movement with the servo recording head's position.